

REMARKS

In view of the above amendments and following remarks, reconsideration and further examination are requested.

The specification and abstract have been reviewed and revised to make editorial changes thereto and generally improve the form thereof, and a substitute specification and abstract are provided. No new matter has been added by the substitute specification and abstract.

Claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Pasturczak. And, claims 2-17 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but were indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Accordingly, without acquiescing to the appropriateness of the prior art rejection issued by the Examiner, and solely to further advance prosecution of this application, by the current amendment claims 1-17 have been canceled and claims 18-33 have been added. New claim 18 corresponds to allowable claim 2 rewritten in independent form, and new claim 29 corresponds to allowable claim 9 rewritten in independent form. Also, new claims 19-28 and 30-33 correspond to former claims 3, 14, 17, 4, 16, 5-8, 15 and 10-13, respectively. Please note that claims 18-33 have been drafted so as to be more in accordance with standard U.S. practice, without departing from the scope intended by claims 2-17.

Because only claims remain which have been indicated by the Examiner to be allowable, it is respectfully submitted that the application is now in condition for allowance, with the allowed claims being 18-33.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance and an early Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

If after reviewing this Amendment, the Examiner believes that any issues remain which must be resolved before the application can be passed to issue, the Examiner is invited to contact

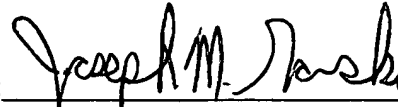
the Applicants' undersigned representative by telephone to resolve such issues.

Respectfully submitted,

Toshio MIKIYA et al.

THE COMMISSIONER IS AUTHORIZED
TO CHARGE ANY DEFICIENCY IN THE
FEE FOR THIS PAPER TO DEPOSIT
ACCOUNT NO. 23-0975.

By: _____



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